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Arbor Day 2009

04.24.2009 | Energy and Environment UD observed Arbor Day Friday, April 24, with the ceremonial planting of a Princeton Elm on the front lawn of Albert Emanuel Hall.

The tree honors J. Sterling Morton, who founded Arbor Day in 1872, said sustainability manager Kurt Hoffmann, who is applying for UD to gain the foundation's Tree Campus USA designation. To qualify for the status, a campus must have a campus tree advisory committee, a campus tree care plan, a tree program with a dedicated annual budget, an observance of Arbor Day and a service learning project.

Trees on campus not only provide shade and wind protection, but also reduce the amount of energy a campus needs to generate, reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and provide attractive outdoor settings for learning, relaxing and community interaction, Hoffmann said.

As part of UD's sustainability initiatives, Roger Banks, associate director of facilities for grounds, is updating the campus tree survey, which includes thousands of trees planted on campus since the founding of the University. He and Hoffmann will use the survey and the landscaping goals set forth in UD's master plan to manage campus trees sustainably.